

Request for Effectiveness Monitoring Committee (EMC) Monitoring Project Proposals

The EMC was formed by the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) in October 2014. The goal of the EMC is to establish a collaborative, transparent, and science-based monitoring effort that delivers a physical and ecological process-based understanding of the effectiveness of the California Forest Practice Rules and other forestry-related laws and regulations in maintaining or enhancing water quality, aquatic habitat, and wildlife habitats. The EMC provides the Board and the Natural Resources Agencies with a science-based committee to better understand if specific requirements in these laws and regulations are effective in achieving resource objectives, including the ecologic performance requirements of AB 1492. The EMC acts as a technical advisory committee to the Board for developing and implementing an effectiveness monitoring program that can provide an active feedback loop to policymakers, managers, agencies, and the public. The EMC Charter is posted at: http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board_committees/effectiveness_monitoring_committee/_mission_goals/emc_charter_august_2013_final_.pdf

The EMC's Strategic Plan lists several **critical monitoring questions** organized under 10 main themes: watercourse and lake protection zone (WLPZ) riparian function, watercourse channel sediment, road and WLPZ sediment, mass wasting sediment, fish habitat, wildfire hazard, wildlife habitat: species and nest sites, wildlife habitat: seral stages, wildlife habitat: cumulative impacts, and wildlife habitat: structures. The EMC Strategic Plan is posted at: http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board_committees/effectiveness_monitoring_committee/_mission_goals/emc_monitoringstrategicplan_100115_approved.pdf

Currently, nine monitoring projects have been proposed to the EMC by a variety of stakeholders to address the critical monitoring questions. These monitoring projects will be prioritized using a detailed ranking method provided in Appendix F of the Strategic Plan. The projects received to date primarily relate to WLPZ riparian function, watercourse channel sediment, road and WLPZ sediment, mass wasting sediment, and fish habitat.

We encourage you to submit to the EMC additional monitoring project proposals for the under-represented themes, particularly related to **wildfire hazard, wildlife habitat: species and nest sites, wildlife habitat: seral stages, wildlife habitat: cumulative impacts, and wildlife habitat: structures. If the projects you submit are selected using a competitive review process, they can help answer important questions regarding the adequacy of the Forest Practice Rules and associated regulations. Past monitoring work on non-federal timberlands has mostly focused on water quality-related rule performance, and not on terrestrial wildlife habitat impacts associated with timber operations. Therefore, your project submittals could provide monitoring data that have been not previously been collected. Please do not hesitate to help us with this process.**

If you are interested in submitting a monitoring project proposal for these under-represented themes, please send them to Mr. Matt Dias:

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